Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-32. (Canceled)

33. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical formulation suitable for oral administration and in the form of coated, flowable granules comprising:

92 to 98% by weight of mesalazine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

2 to 8% by weight of polyvinylpyrrolidone; and

a coating comprising ethylcellulose, the ratio of the weight of the coating to the weight of the mesalazine or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof being 0.7-3%; ~~a release modifying agent;~~

the coated, flowable granules being in a sachet, capsule or blister package;

wherein the coated granules, when suspended in an aqueous buffer at pH 7.5, release the mesalazine according to a release profile in which:

a) 5-25% of the total amount of mesalazine or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof in the granules is released after 15 min;

b) 30-70% of the total amount of mesalazine or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof in the granules is released after 90 min; and

c) 75-100% of the total amount of mesalazine or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof in the granules is released after 240 min;

when measured in a model system using a USP Paddle System 2 operated at 37°C with stirring at 100 rpm.

34. (Previously presented) The formulation of claim 33, comprising 4 to 6% by weight of polyvinylpyrrolidone.

35-36. (Canceled)

37. (New) The pharmaceutical formulation of claim 33, having a similarity factor f_2 above 30 as compared to a standard formulation having *in vitro* release characteristics such that

a) 12% of the total amount of mesalazine in the standard formulation is released after 15 min;

b) 50% of the total amount of mesalazine in the standard formulation is released after 90 min; and

c) 85% of the total amount of mesalazine in the standard formulation is released after 240 min;

when measured in a model system using a USP Paddle System 2 operated at 37°C with stirring at 100 rpm.

38. (New) The pharmaceutical formulation of claim 37, having a similarity factor f_2 above 40 as compared to the standard formulation.

39. (New) The pharmaceutical formulation of claim 37, having a similarity factor f_2 above 50 as compared to the standard formulation.

40. (New) The pharmaceutical formulation of claim 33, consisting of mesalazine, polyvinylpyrrolidone, and coating.

41. (New) The pharmaceutical formulation of claim 33, provided in a sachet comprising a total dosage amount of mesalazine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof selected from the group consisting of 0.5 g, 1.0 g., 1.5 g., 2 g, 3 g, 4 g, 5 g, 6 g, 8 g, and 10 g.

42. (New) The pharmaceutical formulation of claim 33, having *in vitro* release characteristics such that 40 - 60 % of the total amount of mesalazine or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof in the formulation is released after 90 min, when measured in a model system using a USP Paddle System 2 operated at 37°C with stirring at 100 rpm.